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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**ILLEGAL ALIEN CHARGED WITH BEING IN THE UNITED
STATES AFTER HAVING BEEN PREVIOUSLY REMOVED**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that JOSE BRIONES-RAMOS, 27, Columbus, Indiana, was indicted by a federal grand jury sitting in Indianapolis for being an alien in the United States after having been previously deported following a conviction for an aggravated felony, following an investigation by the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The indictment alleges that between June, 2005, and February 24, 2006, BRIONES-RAMOS was in the United States in the Southern District of Indiana after he had been removed from the United States during 2002, following his conviction for an aggravated felony, that is, burglary for which he was sentenced to at least one year of incarceration.

During August, 2003, BRIONES-RAMOS was convicted in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas of having illegally entered the United States. BRIONES-RAMOS is currently incarcerated in the Indiana Department of Corrections serving a sentence of two years' incarceration following his conviction in November 2005 for possession of cocaine.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Joe H. Vaughn, who is prosecuting the case for the government, BRIONES-RAMOS faces a maximum possible prison sentence of 20 years and a maximum possible fine of \$250,000. An initial hearing will be scheduled before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Indianapolis.

The indictment is an allegation only, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

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